

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A network according to claim 1 further having an intrusion protection system, comprising:

a network medium;

a management node connected to the network medium and running an intrusion prevention system management application;

a plurality of nodes connected to the network medium and running an instance of an intrusion protection system application, at least one of the nodes having an identification assigned thereto based on a logical assignment grouping one or more of the plurality of nodes, each node sharing an identification being commonly vulnerable to at least one network exploit;
and

a network-based intrusion protection system appliance dedicated to filtering inbound and outbound data frames transmitted across the network medium.

9. (Original) The network according to claim 8 wherein the network-based intrusion protection system appliance interfaces with the network medium via a network interface card operating in promiscuous mode.

10. (Original) The network according to claim 8 wherein the network-based intrusion protection system appliance shares the identification.

11-17. (Canceled)